



1. What is the purpose of the 'The Netherlands Lives with Water' public awareness campaign?

February 2003 saw the start of the multimedia public awareness campaign 'The Netherlands Lives with Water'. The campaign aims to explain the government's policy of 'giving water more room' and encourage support for it.

Initially, the campaign pressed home the message that the climate is changing and that this has consequences for water management in the Netherlands. Gradually, the campaign puts into plain words what measures such as storing water mean in practice. Moreover, it highlights the efforts the national government, provincial authorities and water boards are undertaking across the Netherlands to keep the country safe and dry.

Research showed that the public estimated the campaign to be informative and believable. The awareness that the government is effecting measures to balance the effects of climate change has increased significantly. At the end of 2003, 82% of the population recognised the social importance of measures to protect against flooding, and 72% endorsed the proposition that this would have to involve 'giving water more room'. Weatherman and 'Water Ambassador' Peter Timofeeff is seen as an appealing and likeable expert. On national and regional radio and television, he brings the problems and solutions to peoples' attention through cartoons and personal appearances.

Source: www.nederlandleeftmetwater.nl

Cartoon from the 'The Netherlands Lives with Water' public awareness campaign featuring Peter Timofeeff